

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Present: Frank Cunningham, Jean Sax, Kip Kendrick, Dan Goldstein, Barbara Buffaloe, Ted Dyer, Alyce Turner, Teresa Hunter

Absent: Bob Walters, David Brodsky, John Miles

Guests: Dick Parker, Power Supply Task Force; Barbara Hoppe, City Council; Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters; Justin Myers, Missourian; Roseann Moring, Missourian

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with changes.

MINUTES

The minutes for April 22, 2008 were approved without changes.

ELECTIONS

New officers were elected. Ms. Sax nominated Ms. Buffaloe for Chair. Ms. Hunter nominated Ms. Sax for Vice Chair. Mr. Dyer moved to elect Ms. Buffaloe for Chair and Ms. Sax for Vice Chair by acclamation. Ms. Hunter made a second motion. The commission agreed to check with Mr. Walters regarding the Secretary's position. Ms. Brown will continue to take the minutes.

LAND PRESERVATION

Mr. Cunningham said the EEC was asked by the City Manager to provide a report on the commission's progress with the land disturbance issue. He, Mr. Goldstein and Ms. Sax worked on the report and provided a draft for the commissioners to review and approve for submission. Mr. Goldstein included an executive summary in the introduction and included information for the Council members to review. He included excerpts from other proposed city plans such as Metro 2020, Visioning and the Greenbelt plan. Ms. Buffaloe suggested emphasizing that an Urban Forestry Plan is outlined under the Development section of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Several commissioners had additions for the report. Ms. Sax moved to approve the report with additions by several commissioners and submit it. Ms. Hunter made a second motion.

Mr. Dyer said the city now has an office that specifically deals with stormwater issues. He said certain regulations are now required to be handled locally by the city. He will forward information to the commissioners. The city also has a stormwater educator.

STREET LIGHTING

Mr. Dyer attended a meeting with Water and Light staff members John Glascock, Jim Windsor, and Dan Clark to discuss the street lighting situation. He provided minutes from that meeting. He said the city does not know exactly how many mercury vapor street lights are currently in use and has hired someone to take a physical inventory. He explained that mercury vapor lights are inefficient in that they degrade over time but still use the same amount of energy. Manufacturers are phasing out the production of mercury vapors. The city will still be able to use what they have in its personal stock, but must devise a plan to phase out their use.

Mr. Glascock said the city plans to test an LED light fixture and place a meter on it for monitoring. Mr. Cunningham suggested talking to other vendors for test fixtures. Mr. Dyer and Mr. Cunningham said they have had some difficulty contacting other cities that use LED lighting such as Ann Arbor, MI and Toronto. It is most likely that high pressure sodium lights will be used until more data is available regarding LEDs.

Mr. Dyer said that the Water and Light Department understands the issues with the need to replace the mercury vapor lights and agreed that a plan for the replacement is needed. He said Mr. Glascock said that a demonstration project could be installed at the new parking garage.

Mr. Glascock said the city used to have a very comprehensive lighting policy but it was degraded over time to allow for decorative fixtures. Mr. Dyer will gather more information and provide it at the next meeting. By the end of July, Mr. Dyer hopes to have a draft of a proposed plan for the phase out of mercury vapor lights.

FOLLOW-UP TO JOHN WELECK'S PRESENTATION

Ms. Sax made the corrections to the letter suggested at the last meeting. More edits were made and Ms. Sax will send the letter to Ms. Brown for submission.

REPORT CARD

Ms. Buffaloe reviewed other cities that utilize a report card system. She will present it to the City Council at the Saturday Council work session May 31, 2008. The EEC will have 30 minutes to present three topics – residential utilities, energy conservation and report card.

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ms. Buffaloe said the meeting with Columbia Public Schools was canceled. Mr. Cunningham said the elementary schools are moving ahead with the current plans, but public input is desired for the new high school location.

Mr. Goldstein said Mr. Brodsky ran the sub area plan meeting and that it went well. Both developers and landowners attended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Ms. Sax announced that a summer solstice party will be at her house on June 21, 2008 from 5 – 10 p.m.

Dick Parker was announced as the new commissioner replacing Frank Cunningham.

Ms. Sax said she would like to see more involvement with the Boone County Commissioners, by possibly having a staff liaison from the county. She will follow up on this.

The City Council plans to have a council person attend the EEC meetings.

Mr. Dyer expressed interest in industrial recycling and more recycling options for the city's industrial customers. Mr. Cunningham suggested having a half-day seminar with the Public Works department, Civic Recycling, city customers, and others to discuss recycling.

Mr. Parker announced the Power Supply Task Force public meeting tomorrow, May 28, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

1. Council meeting report back
2. Annual report
3. Commission members special interests
4. Recycling
5. Demand side management

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison